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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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April 5, 2012

The Honorable Joe Simitian, Chair
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Simitian,

**SUPPORT - SENATE BILL 1219 (INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 2012)
RECYCLING: PLASTIC BAGS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** Senate Bill 1219 (SB 1219) authored by Senator Lois Wolk. SB 1219 would extend the sunset date of Assembly Bill 2449 (AB 2449, Levin, 2006), which established an at-store plastic carryout bag recycling program, to January 1, 2020. It would also delete provisions of AB 2449 that currently preempt local governments from imposing a fee or other requirements regarding single use plastic carryout bags on those stores.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939), as amended), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Due to their lightweight nature, single use plastic carryout bags are disproportionately more likely to end up as litter, where they clog storm drains, harm wildlife, increase clean-up costs of local governments, and cause blight. Accordingly, the Task Force is supportive of legislative efforts that increase the recycling and overall reduction in use of plastic carryout bags. The Task Force supported AB 2449, until at the 11th hour provisions were inserted to preempt local governments from imposing a fee on single

The Honorable Joe Simitian

April 5, 2012

Page 2

use plastic bags or otherwise regulating those bags. SB 1219 extends the provisions of AB 2449 that provide a convenient mechanism for residents to recycle single use plastic bags and other film plastics, as well as promote the use of reusable bags. At the same time, SB 1219 will provide local governments and agencies the ability to adopt, implement and enforce other regulatory actions in order to reduce the negative environmental impacts from single use carryout bags at a local level. Therefore, the Task Force **supports** SB 1219.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste management Task Force and
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Senator Lois Wolk
Each member of Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
San Fernando Valley Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Westside Cities Council of Governments
Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force